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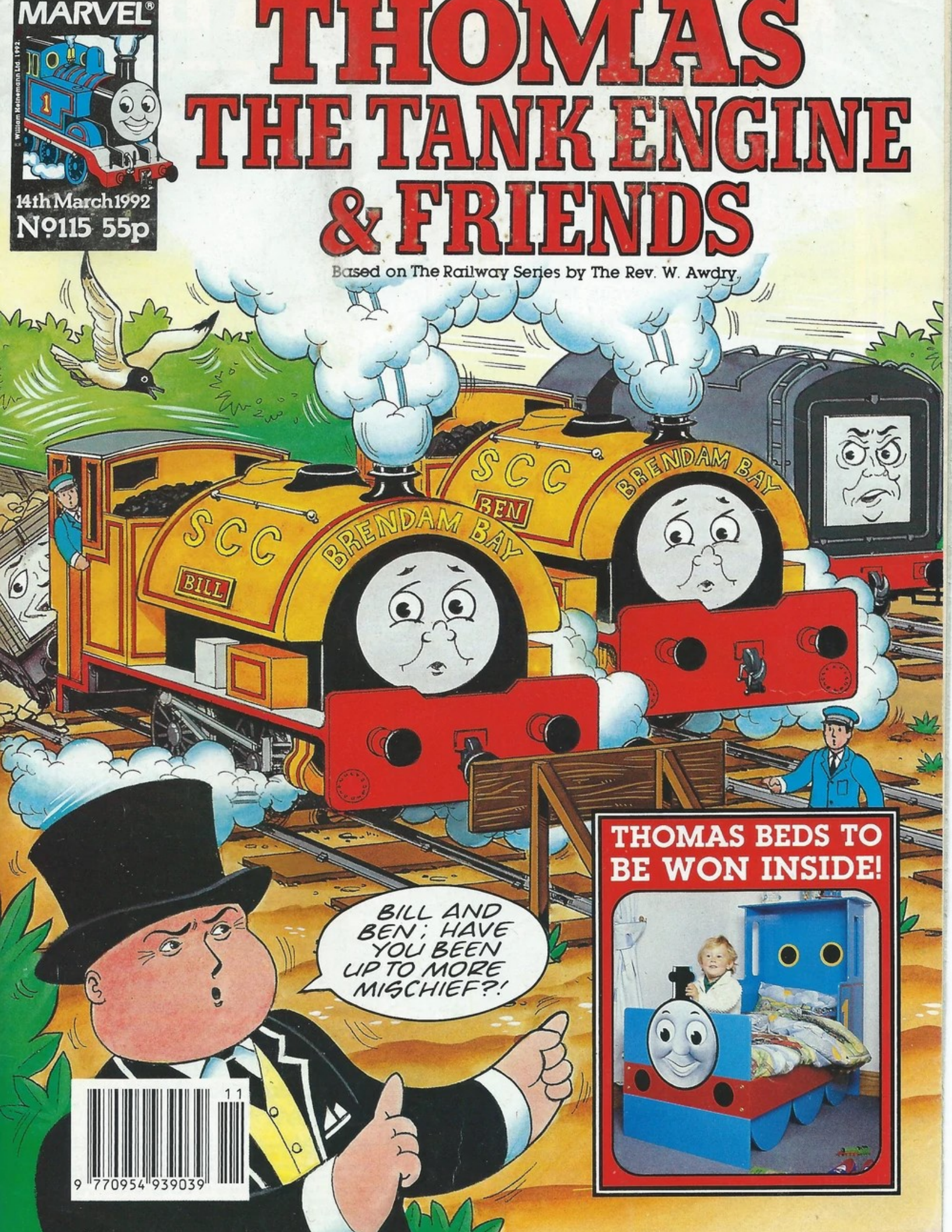
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry



THOMAS BEDS TO BE WON INSIDE!

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NOTICEBOARD

Bill and Ben are the Saddletank twin engines who work in the clay pits on the Island of Sodor. When the twins are asked to work with Diesel, they often become very mischievous. In the story that begins on page 3, Bill and Ben decide to trick Diesel. But it's not only Diesel who's troubled by their mischievous scheme!

SPECIAL COMPETITION!
Turn to page **12** of this issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and be the lucky winner of a splendid Thomas bed from ***AJAYS LTD!***

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!
In our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, you have another chance to win a super selection of toys from ***ERTL (UK)***, including a **Thomas Remote control engine**, **3-piece diecast** playset and a **Thomas standard diecast model!**

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: *The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

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THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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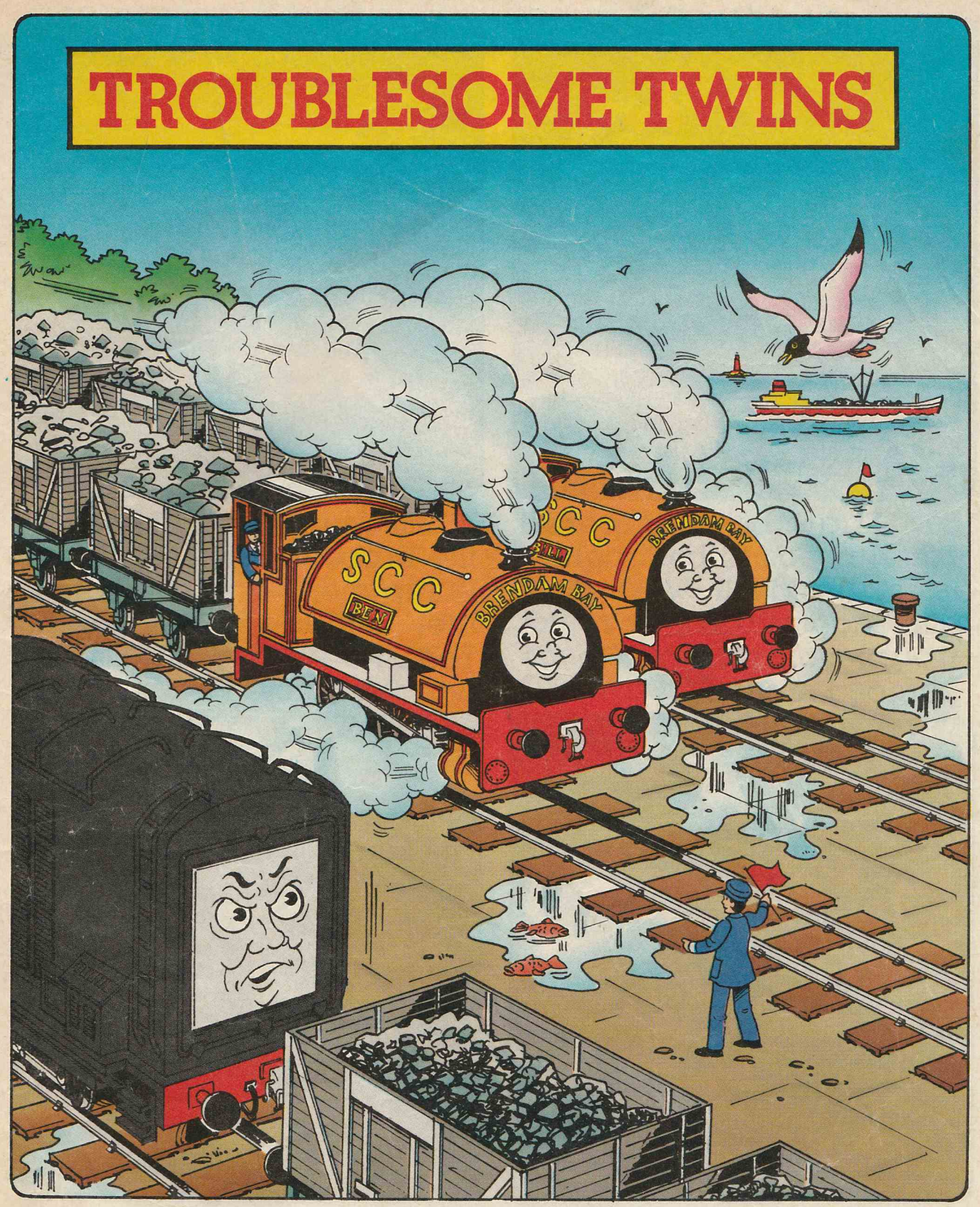
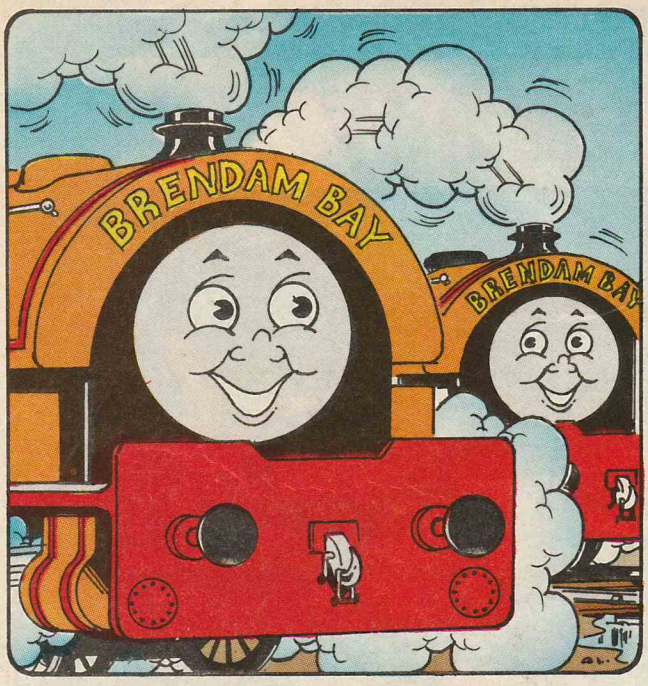
TROUBLESOME TWINS

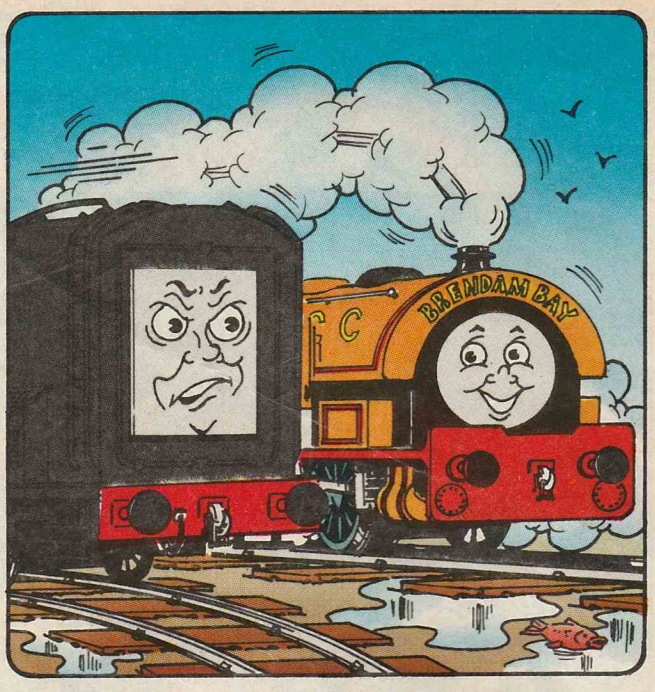


1. Bill and Ben are the Saddletank engine twins who work at the clay pits. One day, they were pulling trucks of china clay to the Big Harbour.

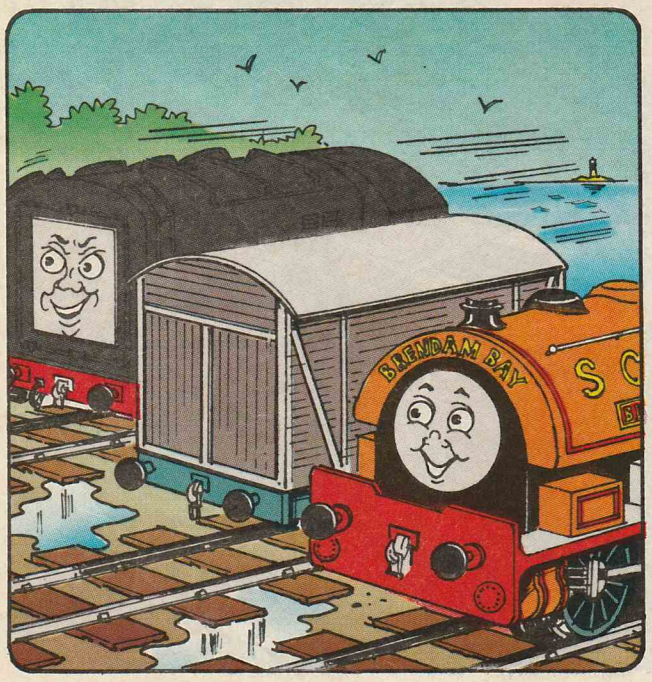
2. When they arrived, they saw Diesel. "Don't get in my way," he warned in his oily voice. "Or I will bump you!" Bill and Ben decided to play a trick on him.



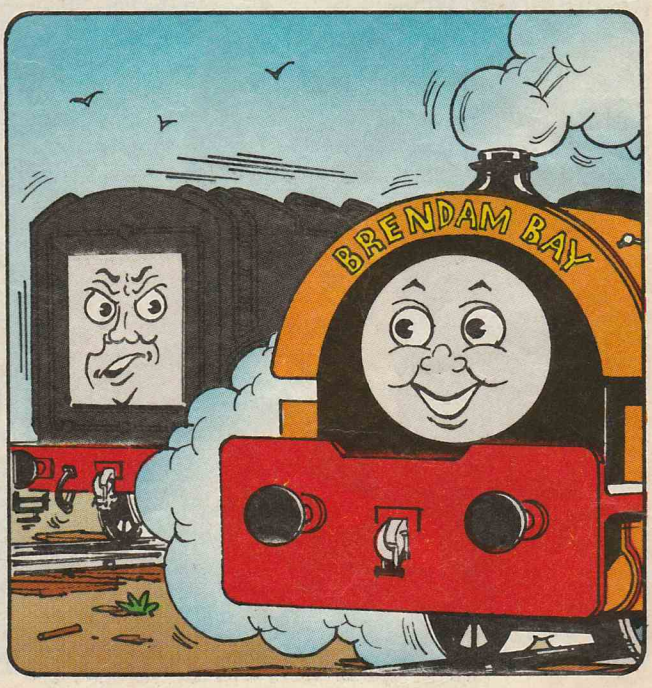
3. "That bad-tempered Diesel needs to be taught a lesson," said Bill. "We'll show him!" added Ben. "We're not troublesome trucks to be bumped around!"



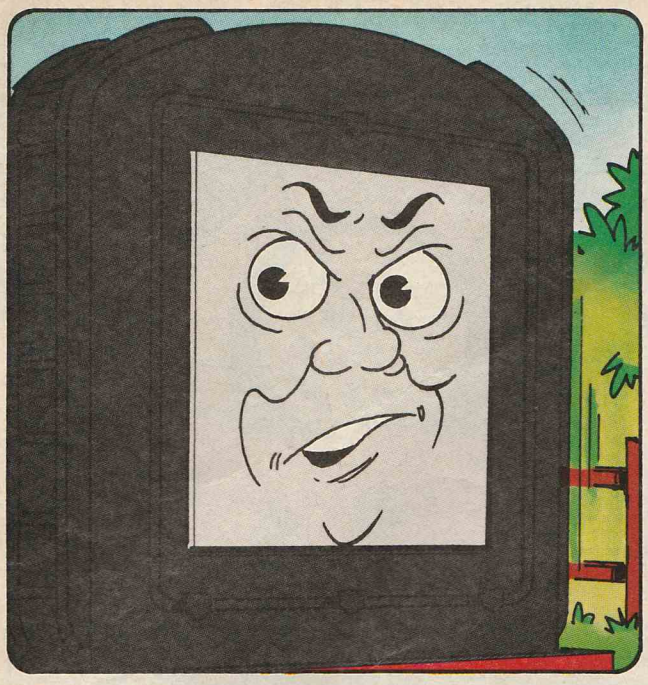
4. Bill went to find Diesel in the harbour yard. "You can bump me, if you can catch me," called Bill, to Diesel. Then he hurried off. Diesel was very cross.



5. "You asked for it!" hissed Diesel. " I'll catch you before you can say 'steam'!" Diesel hurried after Bill, who disappeared from view behind some trucks.

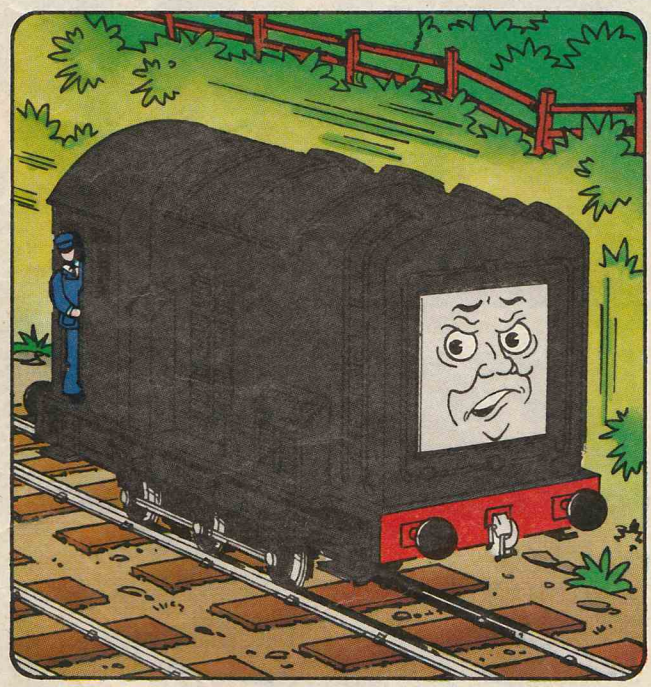


6. "It's no use hiding!" called Diesel. "I know you are behind those trucks!" "No, I'm over here!" called Ben, pretending to be Bill. Now Diesel chased after Ben.

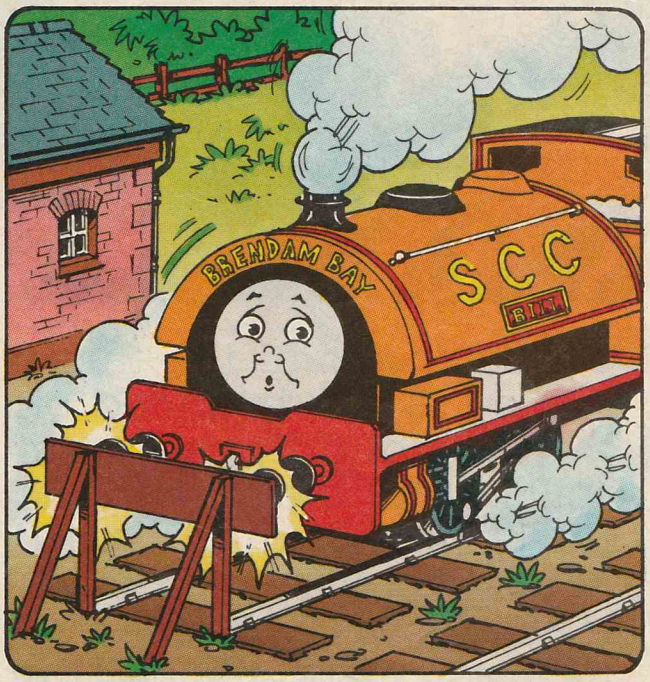


7. "Get ready to be bumped!" growled Diesel. But Ben backed into a siding so Diesel could not see him. "Where did he go?" fumed Diesel.

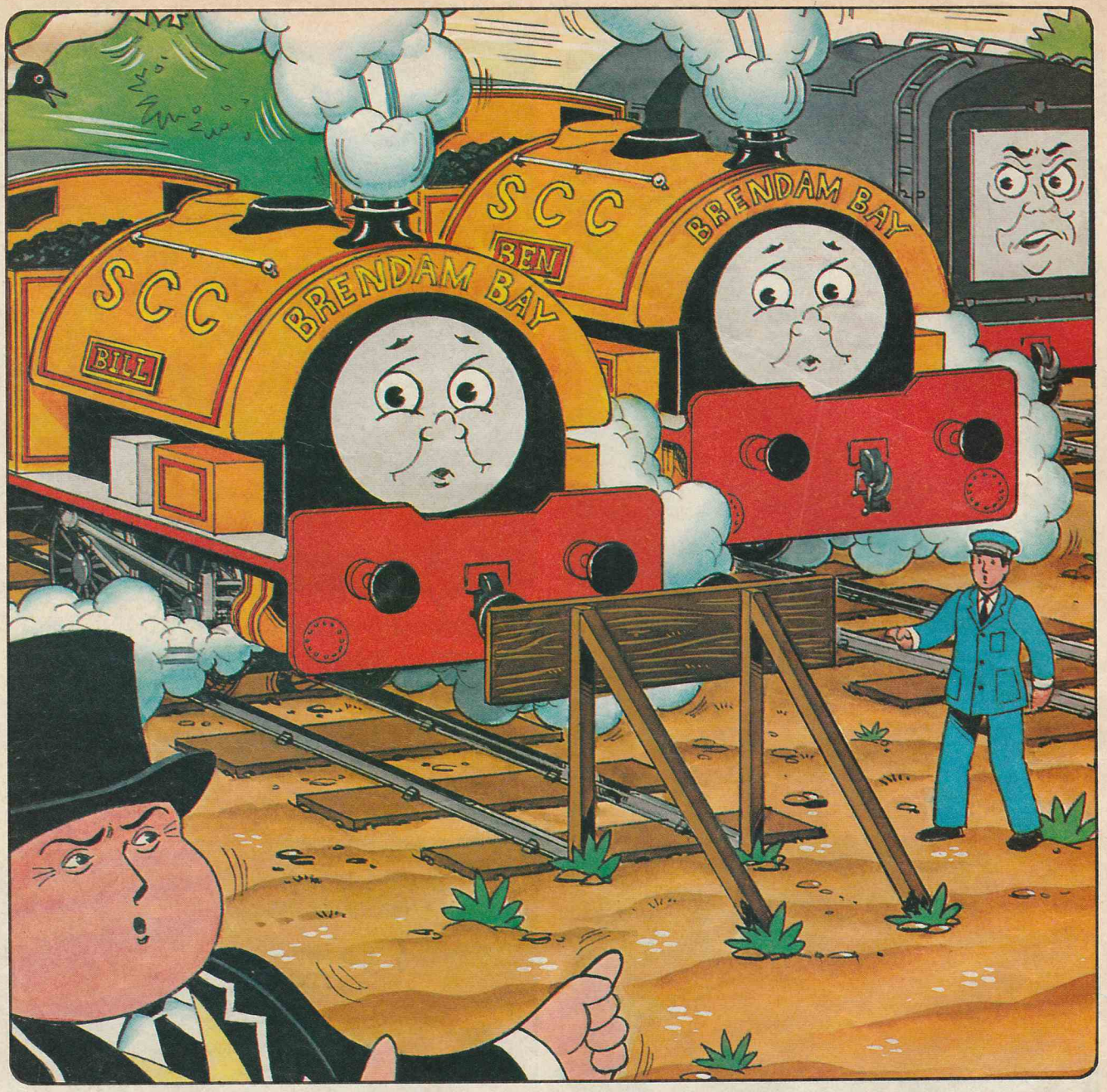
8. Meanwhile, Bill emerged from **his** hiding place behind the trucks. Now he pretended to be Ben. "Here I am, dirty Diesel!" he called. "Can't catch me."



9. Bill and Ben's trick fooled Diesel. One twin would hide and then the other would appear to tease Diesel. Diesel was getting very tired and grumpy.



10. Diesel couldn't catch the twins. Bill and Ben enjoyed their naughty game. But as Bill raced along a siding, he went too fast and bumped into the buffer beam. **Bang!**



11. Behind him, the trucks rocked. Some bounced off the rails and tipped over, spilling out their clay. The Harbour Stationmaster heard the noise and came to the scene. When he saw the mess, he telephoned the Fat Controller who soon arrived, too. "Who is responsible fot this mess!" he asked Diesel and the twins.

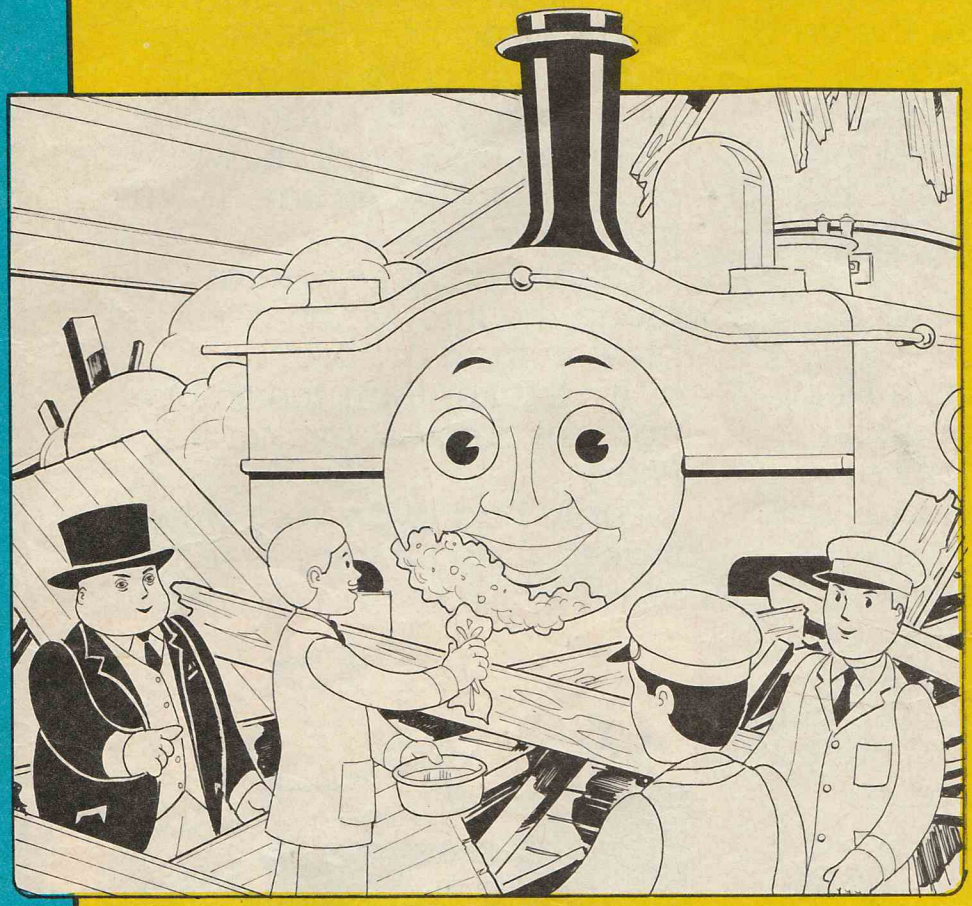
12. "We were only having some fun," said Bill and Ben. They explained how they had tricked Diesel for bullying them. The Fat Controller was very cross. "It was wrong of Diesel to say he would bump you. But you should not play tricks," he told them. "Now you must return to the clay pits and fetch another load!"

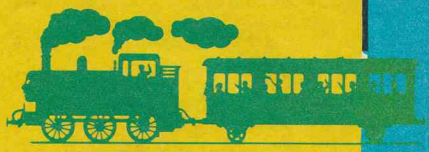
THE END

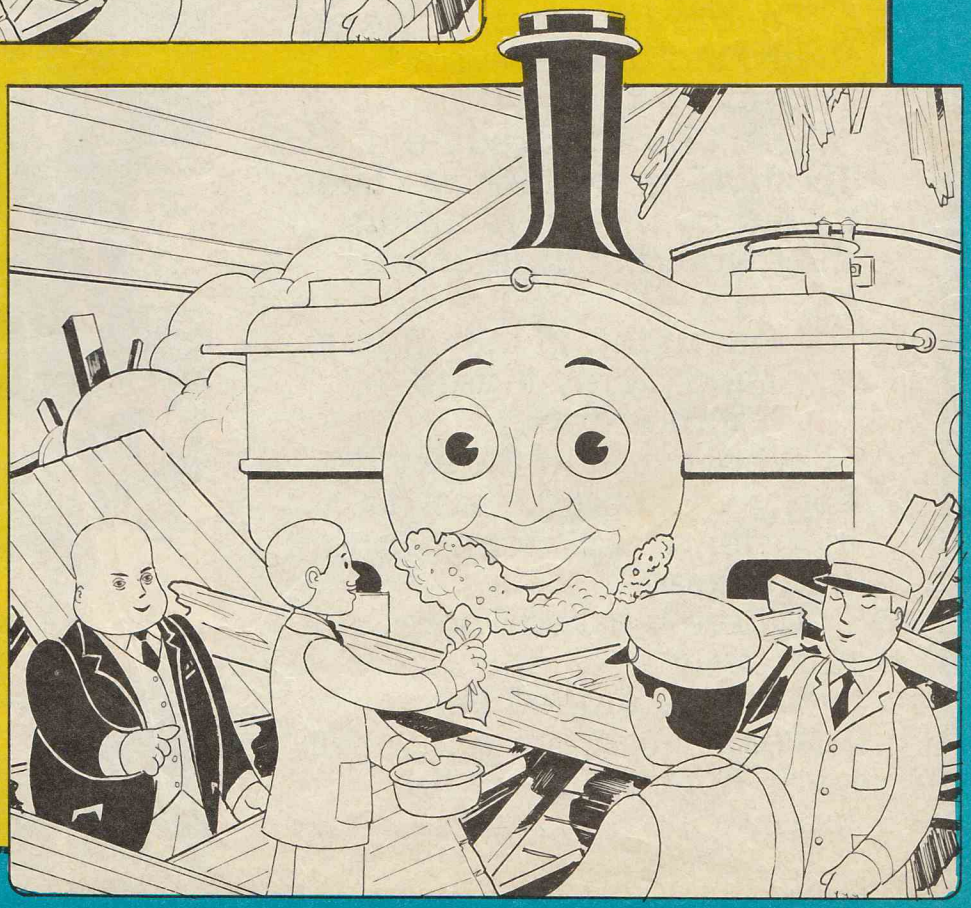
In our next issue: So much to see!

PUZZLE TIME!

Do you remember the day Duck had a close shave? Here are two pictures of him – but they are not the same! Can you spot 5 differences between them and draw a ring round them? The answers are below!







Answers

In the second picture there is no water in the bowl; the Fat Controller has lost his hat; one of the guards has shut his eyes; Duck has lost his dome and he has a lot more **foam** on his face!

Peep! Peep!

PERCY AND THE MIST

Donald and Douglas, the Scottish twins were helping Thomas and Percy shunt trucks in the yard. The twins liked telling the other engines interesting stories from their homeland.

"As the mist swirled, a big, strange creature appeared in the water for a few, wee moments," began Donald. "Then it vanished!"

"Aye, it was the Loch Ness Monster," added Douglas.

"The Loch Ness Monster is very famous in Scotland!" said Donald.

"Lots of people believe it exists!" added Douglas. "Och, people go to Scotland just hoping tae get a glimpse of it!"

"Cinders and ashes!" puffed Percy. "I don't believe in monsters!"

"I'm glad there isn't one on the Island of Sodor!" said Thomas.

"Don't be a scaredy-cat, Thomas!" teased Percy. "Even if I did believe in monsters, they wouldn't frighten me!"

That night, in the engine shed, Percy teased Thomas again.

"What's that in the sky?" Percy whispered. "See! It's a monster and it's round, bright and huge!"

"Where?" asked Thomas nervously.

"There!" laughed Percy.

"Peep! That's not a monster," said Thomas. "That's the moon!"

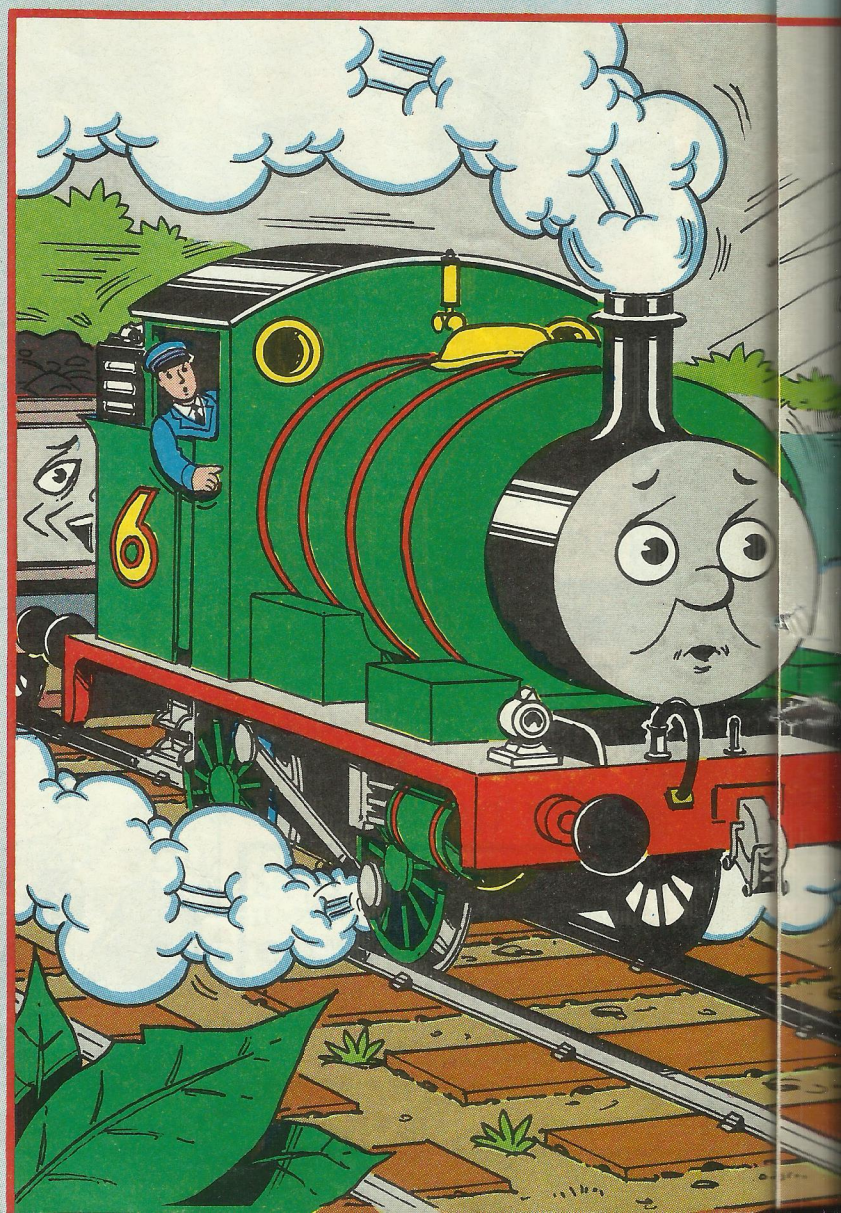
Next morning, Thomas was shunting more trucks in the yard with Donald and Douglas. Percy was sent to collect a goods train from the Big Harbour!

On the way back, he went on the old seaside line. It was not used much now.

Percy had not gone far along the line, when a mist blew in from the sea.

"It's thicker than the smoke from my funnel!" exclaimed Percy.

Percy had to go very slow indeed and felt very lonely.



He was the only engine around and everything looked different in the fog.

Suddenly, through the swirling mist, Percy saw a strange, curved shape in the water!

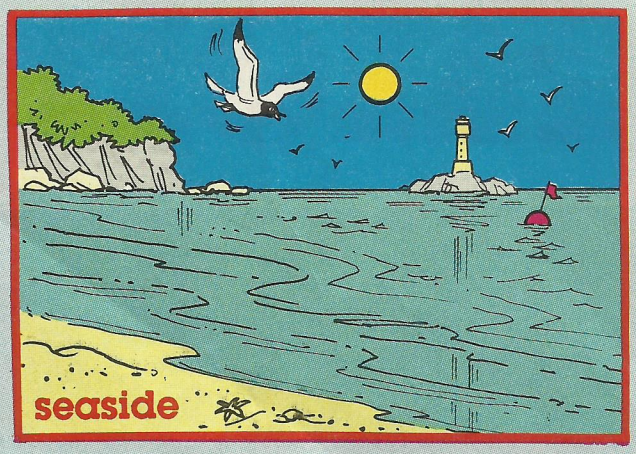
"Buffers and b...boilers!" he puffed.

After he had finished all his duties that day, Percy told Thomas about the strange shape he had seen in the water. But Thomas did not believe him.

"Pah!" huffed Thomas. "You won't frighten me. I'm not scared!"

Percy did not sleep a wink that night. He kept thinking about the Island of Sodor Monster.

Next morning, he rolled wearily out of the engine shed.



The Fat Controller told Percy to take some trucks to the harbour station. He was to go on the seaside line again.

"Please, sir! I'm feeling very tired today. Can Thomas help me pull the trucks?" asked Percy.

The Fat Controller agreed. So Thomas pushed the trucks while Percy pulled them.

When they headed onto the old seaside line, Percy called to Thomas: "I hope we don't see the Island of Sodor Monster!"

As the engines approached, there loomed a strange dark shape from the water's edge. But Thomas suddenly smiled.

"That's not a monster," said Thomas.

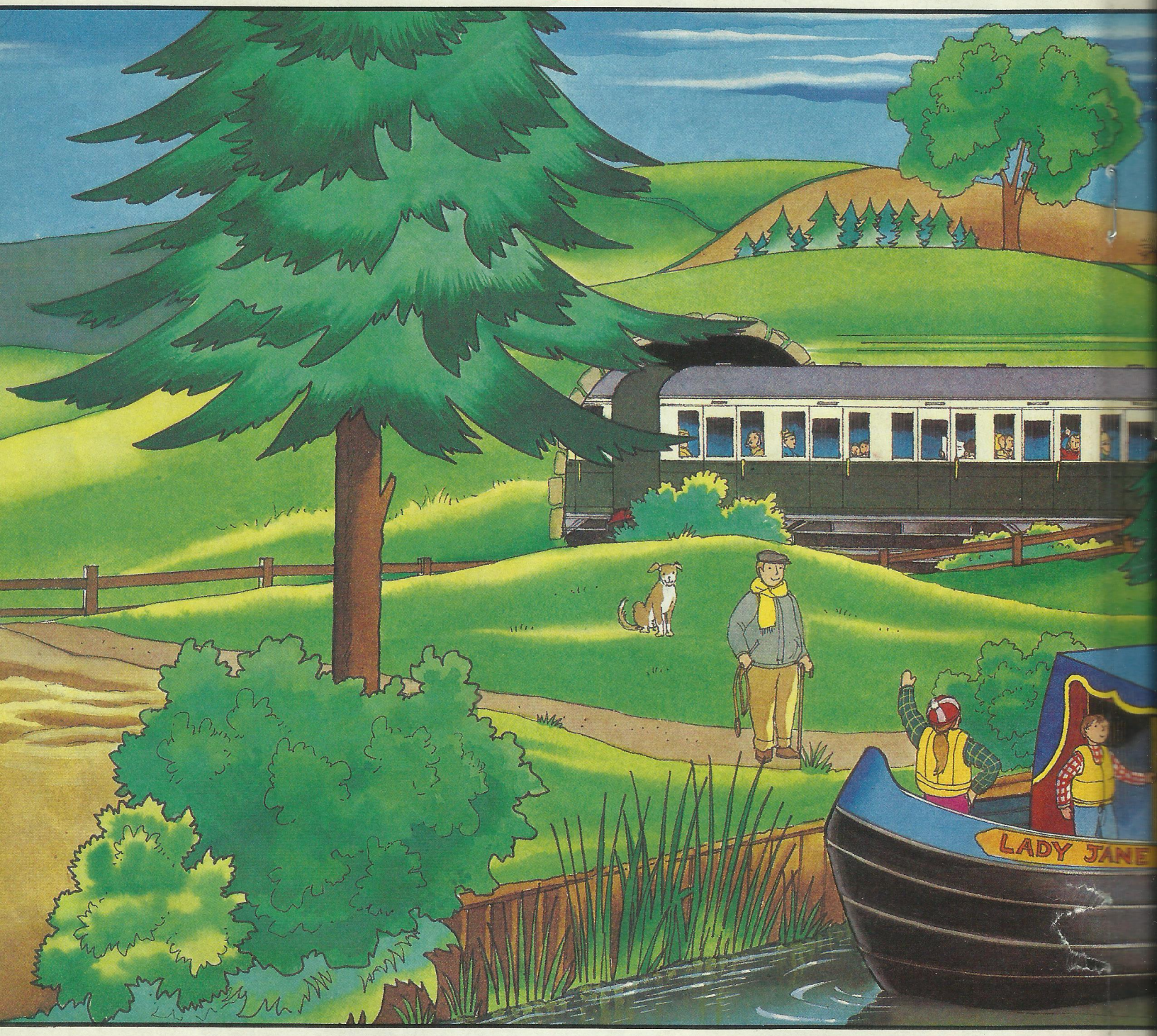
The tide was starting to go out and two big, old rubber tyres were sticking up, beside each other, in the mud!

"So that's what I saw yesterday," thought Percy. "They were partially covered by the sea!" He felt much better now. "There isn't really a Sodor Monster after all," he chuckled.

"I know!" laughed Thomas.

THE END

Alongside th



Which engine can you see?

What colour is he?

Can you see the barge?

How many people are sailing on the barge?

How ma

Point to t

How ma

Point to t

the canal!

v many coaches can you count?

nt to the tunnel!

v many sheep are in the field?

nt to the village!

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

Next issue: Past the locks!

COMPETITION!

SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

Here is your special opportunity to win a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine bed** from ***AJAYS Ltd.*** We are offering a choice of two different beds for the lucky winners. A child's first bed (4' 6" x 2' 3") or a single size (6' 3" x 2' 6"). The beds will be self assembly and will be delivered to your home, flat packed and with easy-to -understand instructions! Both winners will receive their beds from the following address:

Ajay's Ltd,
21 Bailey Gate,
Sturminster Marshall,
Wimbourne,
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BH 21 4DB.

How to enter:
All you have to do to win one of these splendid beds is carefully complete our Thomas rhyme **(see below)**. The rhyme describes a well known engine on the Fat Controller's Railway. You have to fill in the name of the engine to complete the verse. Then fill in your entry form and send this page to ***AJAYS Rhyming Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.***

Name.....Age.....
Address.....
.....
.....
My favourite engine is.....
because.....

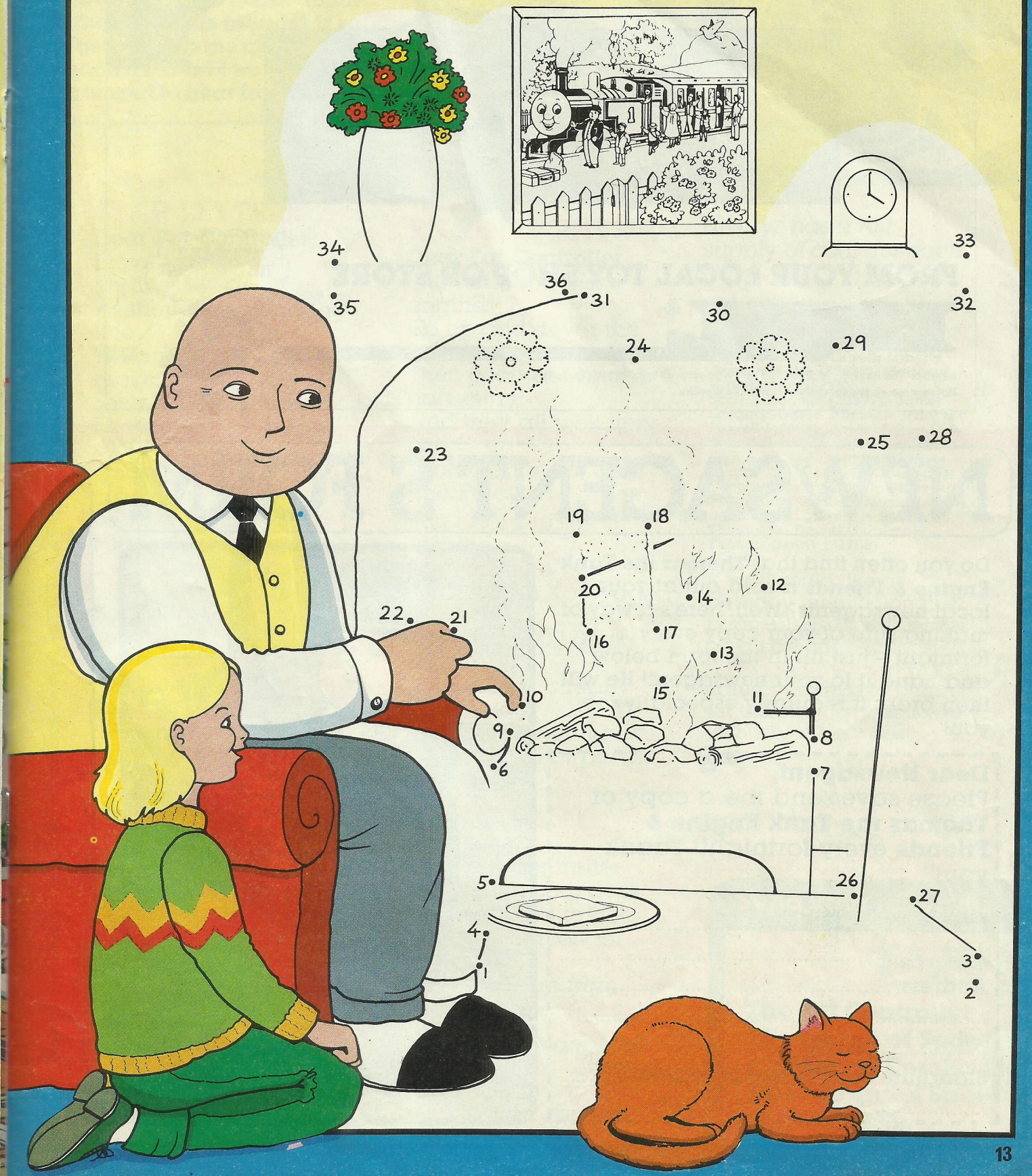
Closing date: 28th March 92.

I am a very proud engine, the finest ever seen,
My coat is of the brightest red, not blue or green!
I have a splendid brass dome, it shines so bright!,
My name is _ _ _ _ _! I wonder if your right!

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of AJAYS Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

JOIN THE DOTS!

Why is the Fat Controller sitting by the fireside?
Join the dots and then decide!



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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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Not recommended for children under 36 months

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

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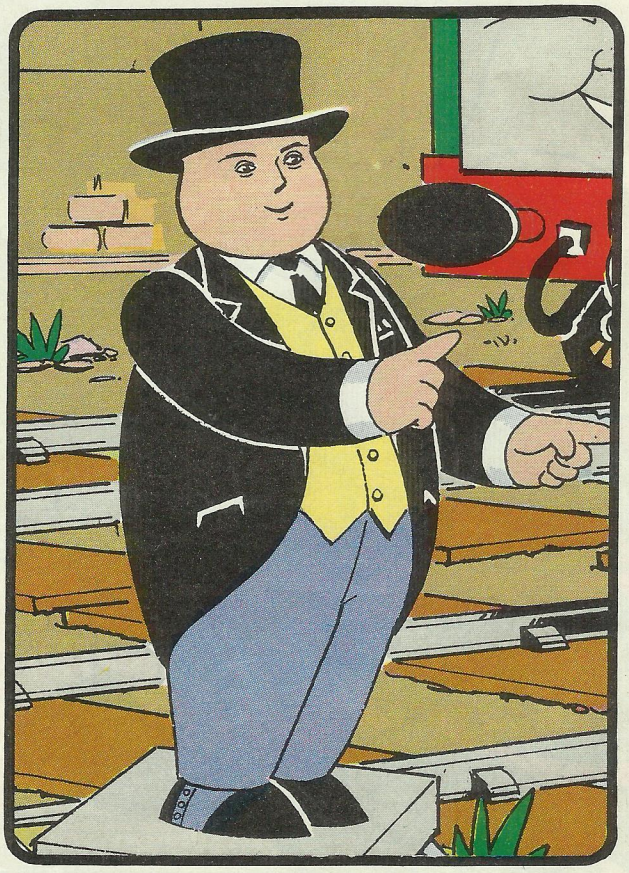
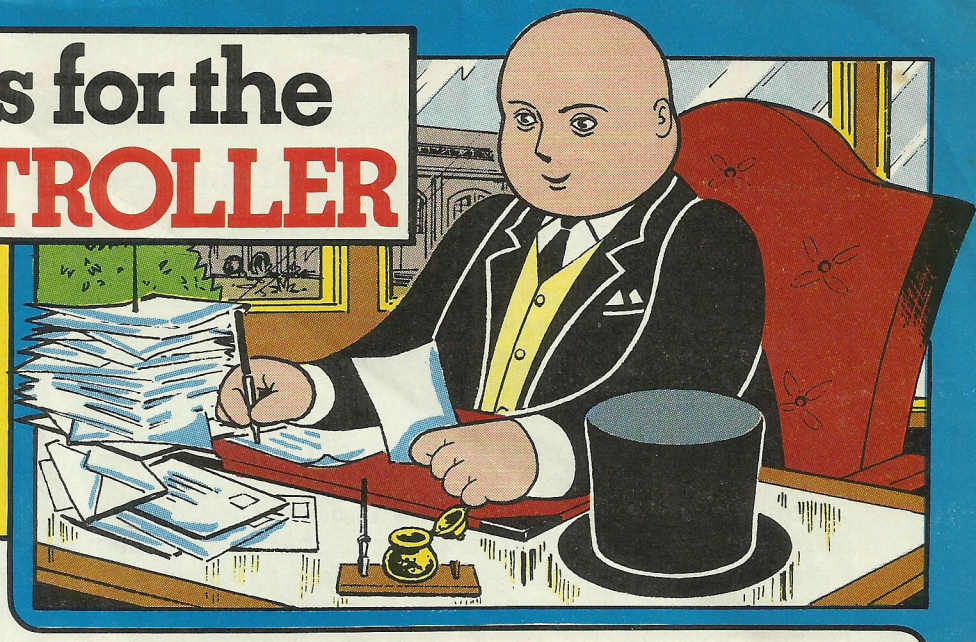


Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I love to hear the engines toot
As they puff along the line
The sound they always make
Seems so very fine
I hear them in the morning
And again at night
Looking from my bedroom window
I see a lovely sight.

Love from **Jamie Ledgerwood**, aged 2.

For your splendid verse,
you will be given a special prize.
To write again would be very wise!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid remote control **Thomas the Tank Engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

ENGINES RHYME!

Dear Fat Controller,
The Fat Controller's engines
Go up and down the line
Their coats are bright and shiny
And they all look very fine.
Thomas, James, Henry and Percy,
Work hard in all weathers
Rain or shine.

Love from Kate, aged 2.

Upon my soul! Dear Kate,
Your rhyme is really great!
My engines all agree,
You're better at poems than me!

IMPORTANT FUEL!

Dear Fat Controller,
How much coal does Thomas need to get from one station to another?

Love from Neil Morrison.

It very much depends on how much distance there is between stations. But Thomas always has a full supply of coal for each day!

BIRTHDAYS!

Christopher Waite, Christopher Cooper, Damian Merritt, William Merren (36327), Gareth Roberts, Jennifer Bates (37490), Matthew Hawthorne (35373), Scott.A.Hadden (31577), Daniel Gregory, David Macbeth, Gary Mc Dowell (12602), Daniel Farmer, John Sabin (34822), James MIller, Philip James Unsworth (29720), Wayne Elliot (37004), Christopher Cooper, Steven Littlechild, James Peter Hicks, Ashlee Boltons (36254) and belated greetings to Conrad Thompson, Daniel Gunn and Thomas Denny (31752).

If you would like a birthday mention on this page, please send details on a post card at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

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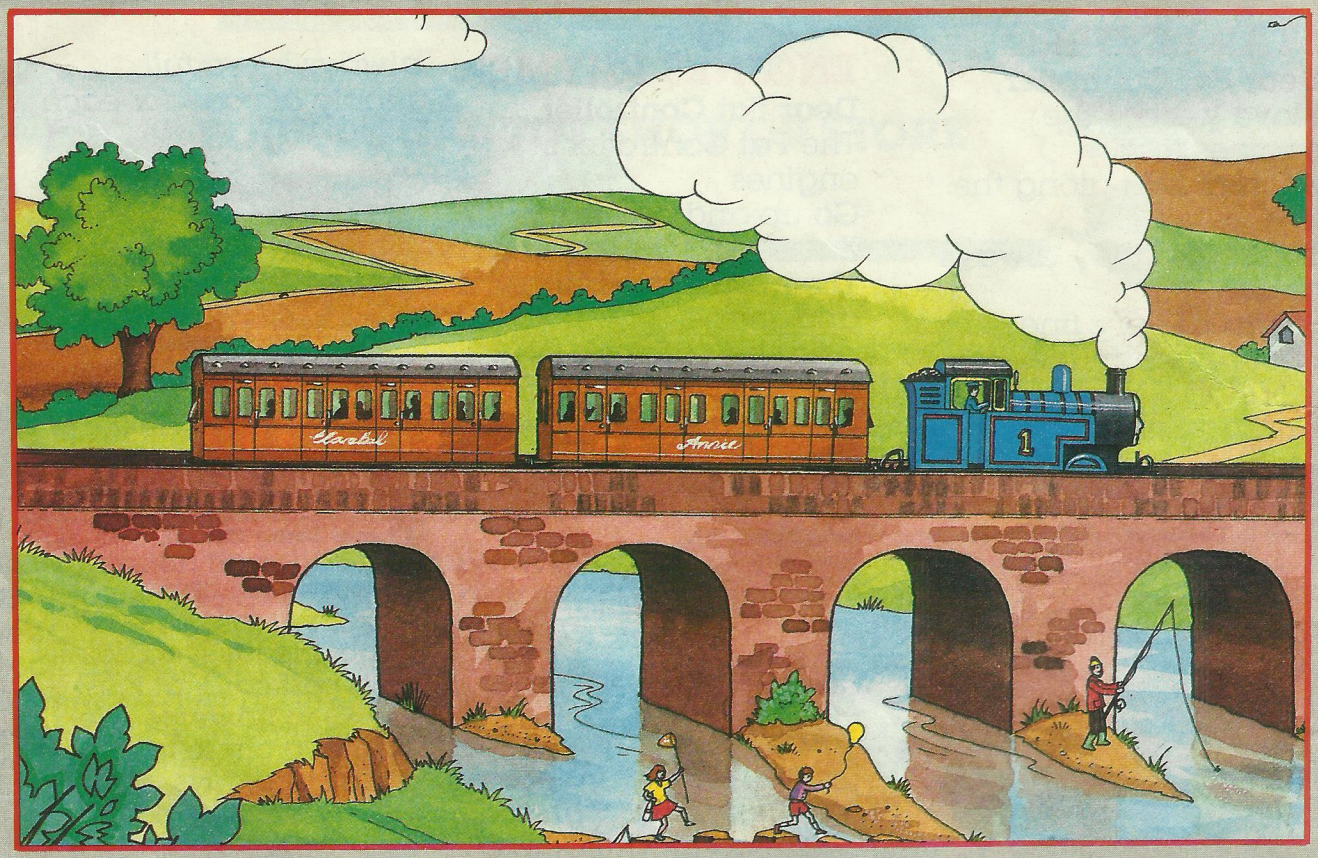
For just £18.00 (£35.00 overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



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☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas)
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Child's name .....
Address .....
.....
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.....
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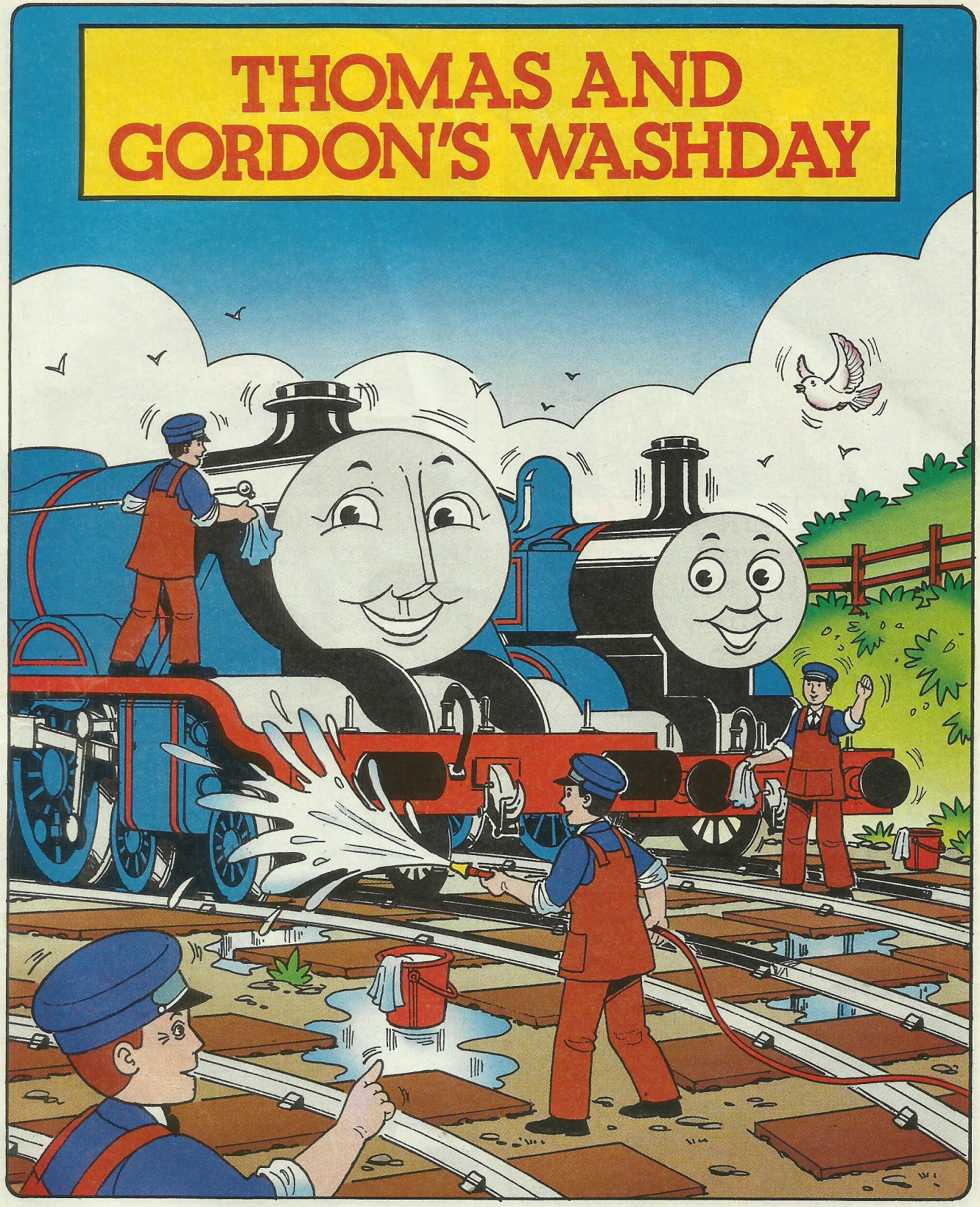
Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
.....
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

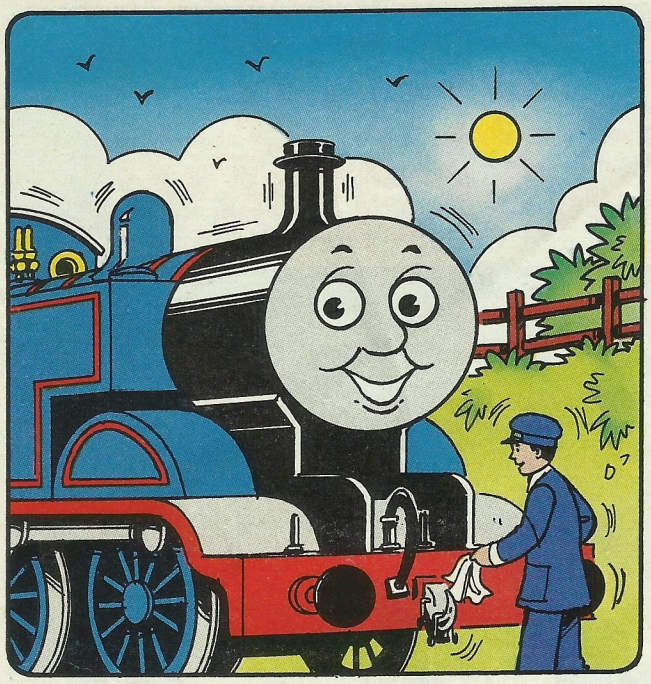
(Tick boxes where appropriate) FC2

THOMAS AND GORDON'S WASHDAY

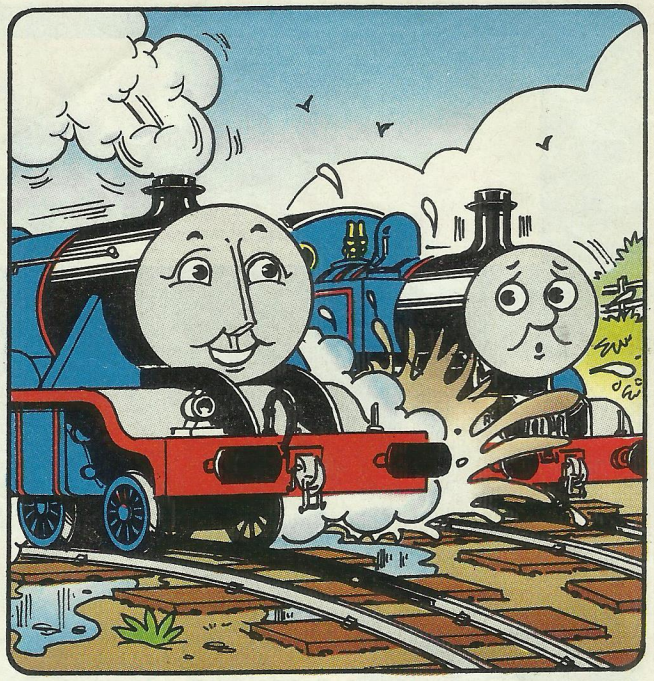


1. Gordon is the fastest, and proudest engine on the Island of Sodor. Often his pride can lead him into trouble. Just see what happened yesterday...

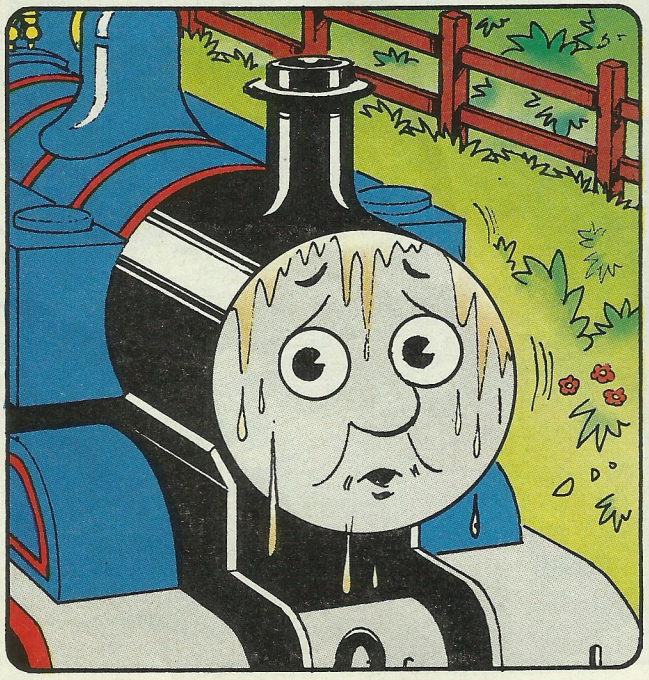
2. It was washday at the depot and Gordon and Thomas were being scrubbed and hosed clean by their drivers. It was very hard work indeed!



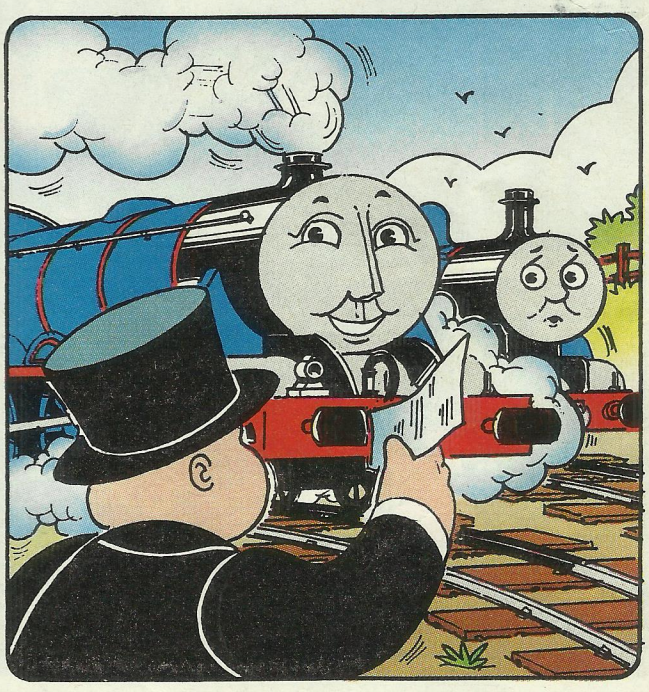
3. Once all the soap bubbles were hosed from Thomas, his driver began polishing him with a soft cloth. Thomas shone brightly. He did feel clean.



4. But not for very long, for the next moment Gordon rolled through a dirty puddle sending a spray of mud splashing over poor Thomas. Whoosh!

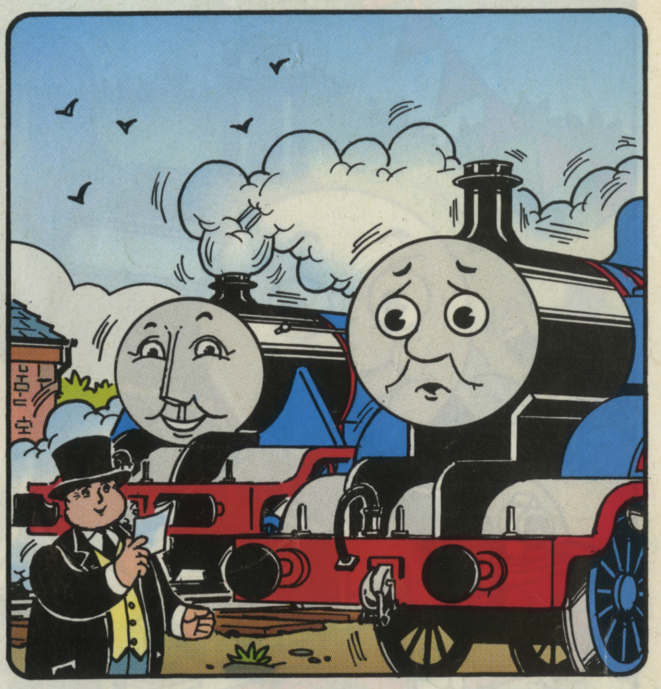


5. "Now I'm all muddy again," moaned Thomas. He had mud dripping down his face. But Gordon smirked, "I'm the fastest and cleanest engine!"

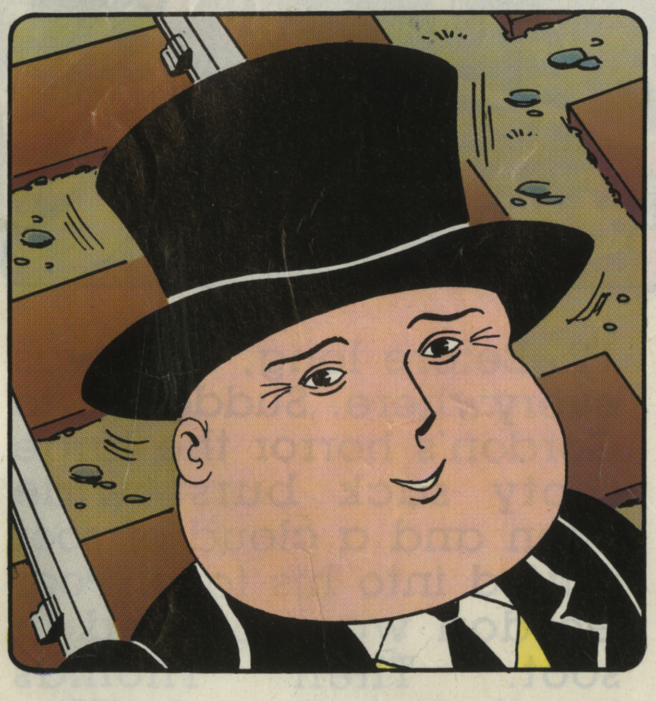


6. Just then, the Fat Controller walked towards Thomas and Gordon. "I've just received a very interesting letter," he said. "I need one of you to help."

7. "The letter is from a big, important company on the Island," said the Fat Controller. "They want to hold a party on board one of our trains."

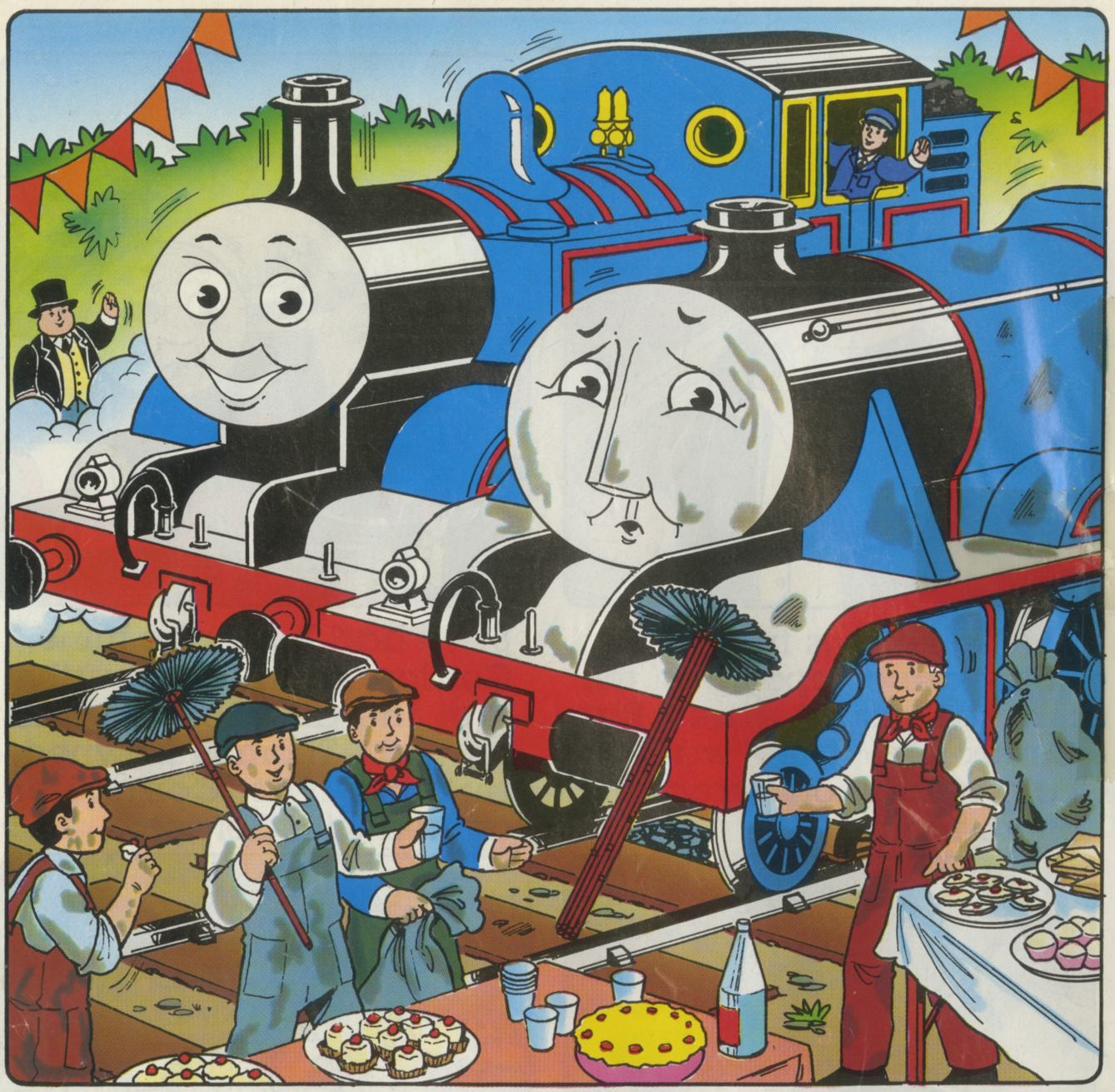


8. "It had better be mine," Gordon beamed proudly. "I'm the cleanest engine around." Thomas frowned, but the Fat Controller agreed with Gordon.



9. "The party shall be held aboard your coaches, Gordon," said the Fat Controller. Thomas smiled when he saw the employees arrive later.

10. The party was being held by a top Chimney Sweep Company. And the staff came with their big soot-sacks and sooty brooms.



11. Soon the chimney sweeps were playing party games and eating lots of delicious food. They all thought it was great fun to hold a party on-board a fine train. Their favourite party game was played at the next station on the platform. It was 'Pass the Parcel' using a sooty sack as the parcel.

12. Before long, soot was everywhere. Suddenly, to Gordon's horror the large sooty sack burst wide open and a cloud of soot puffed into his face. Poor Gordon was covered in soot. Then Thomas laughed out loud, "You may be the fastest engine, but you're not the cleanest anymore, Gordon!"

THE END

In our next issue: Thomas and the new wheel!